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New Mexico Labor Market Review

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NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
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This issue introduces revised civilian labor force and nonagricultural industry employment estimates for New Mexico and its subareas. The nonagricultural data incorporates more recent payroll counts from employers covered under unemployment compensation programs. The labor force data reflects the revised nonagricultural estimates, along with new information from the U.S. Department of Labor's Current Population Survey. Labor force and nonfarm employment estimates have been revised back through 1986. Included on page 9 of this issue are revised 1987 labor force estimates for statewide New Mexico and the Albuquerque area. 1987 annual average labor force data for all areas appear on page 10. Publications are available containing historical labor force, nonagricultural employment, and industry hours and earnings estimates for New Mexico and its subareas. If you would like to receive copies of these publications, please return the order form on the back page of this newsletter.

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New Mexico's unemployment rate rose from 8.0 to 8.8 percent in January, largely the result of usual post-holiday layoffs and the continuation of the winter slowdown in building activity. The labor force estimates reflect longer term improvement, however, with the state's jobless rate over a percentage point lower than at this time last year. Current estimates show New Mexico with approximately 9,400 fewer unemployed than in January 1987. The U.S. unemployment situation has also improved, with a 6.3 percent jobless rate (not seasonally adjusted) this January compared with 7.3 percent one year ago.

Total nonagricultural payroll employment, based on a monthly survey of employers in New Mexico, declined by 10,200 jobs in January. As expected, trade lost the most jobs as retailers cut back temporary workers hired for the holiday season.

Other industries with sizeable job reductions were construction (-1,900), motor freight (-500), and business services (-500).

Total nonfarm employment in New Mexico has grown by 9,700 or 1.9 percent over the last twelve months. All major industries, with the exception of construction and transportation & utilities, have added jobs over the year. The estimates show particular strength in manufacturing, along with a partial recovery in mining. Manufacturing employment is up by 2,600 jobs from early 1987, with growth in transportation equipment, electrical equipment, professional & scientific instruments, and apparel manufacturing. Unfortunately, the job picture is decidedly different in construction and transportation, communications & utilities (TCPU). Building employment is down by 2,100, while TCPU has lost 300 jobs over the last year.

	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Jan. 1988	Dec. 1987	Jan. 1987	Dec. 1987	Jan. 1987
Civilian Labor Force	676,000	681,500	679,600	-5,500	-3,600
Employment	616,300	626,900	610,500	-10,600	+5,800
Unemployment	59,700	54,600	69,100	+5,100	-9,400
Rate	8.8%	8.0%	10.2%		

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

NEW MEXICO	PRELIM JAN 1988	REVISED DEC 1987	REVISED JAN 1987	JAN CHANGE FROM DEC 1987	JAN CHANGE FROM JAN 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	526,200	536,400	516,500	-10,200	9,700
MINING	15,400	15,600	14,300	-200	1,100
Metal Mining	2,100	2,100	2,000	0	100
Bituminous Coal, Quarrying etc	4,000	4,100	3,700	-100	300
Oil & Gas Extraction	9,300	9,400	8,600	-100	700
CONSTRUCTION	28,100	30,000	30,200	-1,900	-2,100
MANUFACTURING	39,100	39,400	36,500	-300	2,600
DURABLE GOODS	26,700	26,700	24,100	0	2,600
Lumber & Wood Products	2,500	2,600	2,600	-100	-100
Machinery(except electric)	2,600	2,500	2,200	100	400
Elec & Electronic Equip	5,200	5,200	4,700	0	500
Transportation Equipment	5,200	5,200	4,000	0	1,200
Other Durable Goods	11,200	11,200	10,600	0	600
NONDURABLE GOODS	12,400	12,700	12,400	-300	0
Food & Kindred Products	3,600	3,900	3,900	-300	-300
Textile & Apparel	2,600	2,600	2,400	0	200
Other Nondurable Goods	6,200	6,200	6,100	0	100
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	28,400	29,500	28,700	-1,100	-300
TRANSPORTATION	12,800	13,500	12,600	-700	200
Railroad Transportation	2,000	2,100	2,200	-100	-200
Trucking & Warehousing	6,000	6,500	5,700	-500	300
Other Transportation	4,800	4,900	4,700	-100	100
COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	15,600	16,000	16,100	-400	-500
Communication	6,800	6,900	6,700	-100	100
Elec, Gas, & Sanitary Services	8,800	9,100	9,400	-300	-600
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	127,500	132,200	123,900	-4,700	3,600
WHOLESALE TRADE	22,700	23,100	22,300	-400	400
Durable Goods	13,200	13,400	12,900	-200	300
Nondurable Goods	9,500	9,700	9,400	-200	100
RETAIL TRADE	104,800	109,100	101,600	-4,300	3,200
Bldg Material & Mobile Homes	4,200	4,400	4,100	-200	100
General Merchandise Stores	13,000	14,000	12,200	-1,000	800
Food Stores	14,200	14,900	14,900	-700	-700
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	13,000	13,200	12,700	-200	300
Apparel & Accessories	6,000	6,300	5,700	-300	300
Furniture & Furnishing	4,300	4,400	4,400	-100	-100
Eating & Drinking Places	38,500	39,800	36,200	-1,300	2,300
Miscellaneous Retail	11,600	12,100	11,400	-500	200
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	27,100	27,200	26,400	-100	700
Banking	8,000	8,000	8,000	0	0
Insurance Carriers	3,800	3,800	3,700	0	100
Insur Agents, Brokers & Service	2,900	2,900	2,800	0	100
Real Estate	6,400	6,600	6,100	-200	300
Other Fin, Ins & Real Estate	6,000	5,900	5,800	100	200
SERVICES	121,300	122,600	119,300	-1,300	2,000
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	10,900	11,200	10,800	-300	100
Personal Services	5,800	5,800	5,900	0	-100
Business Services	29,100	29,600	29,200	-500	-100
Health Services	30,500	30,700	29,800	-200	700
Legal Services	4,300	4,300	4,100	0	200
Educational Services	5,300	5,400	5,000	-100	300
Social Services	6,500	6,500	6,900	0	-400
Membership Organizations	6,000	6,300	5,900	-300	100
Other Services	22,900	22,800	21,700	100	1,200
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	139,300	139,900	137,200	-600	2,100
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	29,800	29,600	29,700	200	100
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	109,500	110,300	107,500	-800	2,000
State Government 2/	48,500	49,300	48,700	-800	-200
Local Government	61,000	61,000	58,800	0	2,200

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.
2/ Includes employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

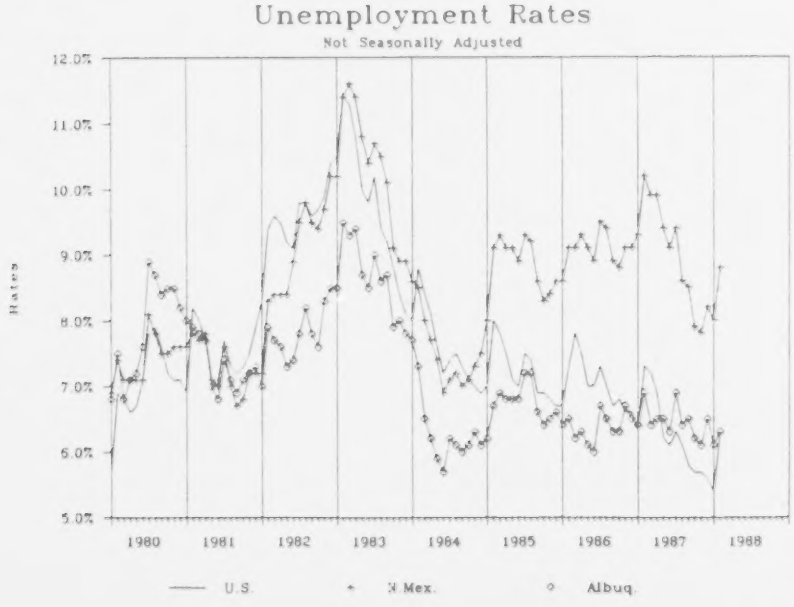
ALBUQUERQUE AREA (BERNALILLO COUNTY)

Albuquerque's unemployment rate has increased between December and January in fifteen of the last eighteen years. This customary post-Christmas setback repeated itself this year with an over-the-month increase of .2 of a percentage point. However, this compares favorably with an average January increase since 1970 of almost .5 of a percentage point. Albuquerque also fared better than the state, which showed an unemployment rate increase of .8 of a percentage point.

Total nonagricultural employment was down by 4,200 jobs in January as every major industry posted negative figures. Although much of the decline came as no surprise, a few industries posted atypical totals. Trade lost the most positions over the month with a drop of 1700 jobs. However, the decline was significantly less then the 2,800 experienced over the same two-month period last year. Manufacturing and transportation & public utilities also did not lose as much as was expected. Unfortunately, construction once again lost ground, with more layoffs than could be attributed to the season. The fairly steady slide in construction employment which started last March continued in January as the industry lost approximately 800 jobs, 300 more than expected at this time of year. February's unseasonably warm weather may stimulate some early construction starts which could have a positive effect on next month's employment estimates.

On an annual average basis, Albuquerque's nonagricultural employment grew by only 1.6% in 1987. The city's largest industries, services and trade, grew by a respectable 3 to 4 percent during the year; however, some of the gains were offset by employment losses in construction. Albuquerque's growth rate was comparable to other Southwestern cities. When compared to Austin, Phoenix, El Paso and Tucson, only Phoenix showed a higher average growth rate, with an average increase of 3.4% of its total nonagricultural employment. Employment grew by 0.6% in Tucson and 1.4% in El Paso. Austin posted a loss of 2.1% of its nonagricultural workforce between 1986 and 1987, with declines in every major industry except services and government. The one problem shared by all five cities was the loss of construction jobs. Austin experienced the greatest loss with 28% fewer construction workers over the year. Albuquerque's 1.6% growth rate appears to be well within the norm for this part of the country.

	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Jan. 1988	Dec. 1987	Jan. 1987	Dec. 1987	Jan. 1987
Civilian Labor Force	256,700	260,400	258,800	-3,700	-2,100
Employment	240,400	244,600	240,900	-4,200	-500
Unemployment	16,300	15,800	17,900	+500	-1,600
Rate	6.3%	6.1%	6.9%		



ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

ALBUQUERQUE MSA (BERNALILLO COUNTY)	PRELIM JAN 1988	REVISED DEC 1987	REVISED JAN 1987	JAN CHANGE FROM DEC 1987	JAN CHANGE FROM JAN 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	230,500	234,700	224,900	-4,200	5,600
MINING	200	100	200	100	0
CONSTRUCTION	14,500	15,300	15,400	-800	-900
MANUFACTURING	20,100	20,200	19,700	-100	400
Durable Goods	14,600	14,600	14,300	0	300
Nondurable Goods	5,500	5,600	5,400	-100	100
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	12,500	12,600	12,100	-100	400
Transportation	6,100	6,200	5,900	-100	200
Communication	3,900	3,900	3,700	0	200
Elec, Gas, & Sanitary Services	2,500	2,500	2,500	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	60,100	61,800	57,500	-1,700	2,600
WHOLESALE TRADE	14,100	14,300	13,900	-200	200
Durable Goods	9,500	9,500	9,300	0	200
Nondurable Goods	4,600	4,800	4,600	-200	0
RETAIL TRADE	46,000	47,500	43,600	-1,500	2,400
General Merchandise Stores	5,300	5,700	4,700	-400	600
Food Stores	5,000	5,100	5,100	-100	-100
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	4,600	4,600	4,600	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	18,000	18,400	16,500	-400	1,500
Other Retail Trade	13,100	13,700	12,700	-600	400
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	14,700	15,100	14,400	-400	300
Banking	3,300	3,400	3,100	-100	200
Ins Carriers, Agents & Brokers	4,200	4,300	4,100	-100	100
Other Fin, Ins & Real Estate	7,200	7,400	7,200	-200	0
SERVICES	63,800	63,900	61,800	-100	2,000
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	3,700	3,800	3,800	-100	-100
Personal Services	2,900	2,800	3,100	100	-200
Business Services	20,900	21,100	20,500	-200	400
Health Services	14,500	14,500	14,100	0	400
Social Services	2,800	2,700	2,800	100	0
Membership Organizations	1,800	1,800	1,800	0	0
Other Services	17,200	17,200	15,700	0	1,500
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	44,600	45,700	43,800	-1,100	800
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	13,000	13,000	13,300	0	-300
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	31,600	32,700	30,500	-1,100	1,100
State Government	11,200	12,200	11,200	-1,000	0
Local Government	20,400	20,500	19,300	-100	1,100

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

LAS CRUCES MSA (DONA ANA COUNTY) 1/	PRELIM JAN 1988	REVISED DEC 1987	REVISED JAN 1987	JAN CHANGE FROM DEC 1987	JAN CHANGE FROM JAN 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 2/	40,700	41,100	40,150	-400	550
MINING	50	50	50	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2,000	2,100	2,100	-100	-100
MANUFACTURING	4,100	4,100	3,800	0	300
Durable Goods	1,700	1,700	1,600	0	100
Nondurable Goods	2,400	2,400	2,200	0	200
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,350	1,350	1,450	0	-100
Transportation	550	550	600	0	-50
Comm, Elec, Gas & Sanitary Svs	800	800	850	0	-50
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	8,450	8,800	7,750	-350	700
WHOLESALE TRADE	900	900	850	0	50
RETAIL TRADE	7,550	7,900	6,900	-350	650
General Merchandise Stores	900	1,000	950	-100	-50
Food Stores	1,050	1,050	1,000	0	50
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	1,100	1,100	900	0	200
Eating & Drinking Places	2,900	3,000	2,600	-100	300
Other Retail Trade	1,600	1,750	1,450	-150	150
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	1,650	1,650	1,550	0	100
SERVICES	6,500	6,450	6,050	50	450
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	700	700	650	0	50
Business Services	1,450	1,400	1,250	50	200
Health Services	1,700	1,750	1,600	-50	100
Social Services	250	300	250	-50	0
Other Services	2,400	2,300	2,300	100	100
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	16,600	16,600	17,400	0	-800
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	4,300	4,300	4,500	0	-200
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	12,300	12,300	12,900	0	-600
State Government	6,800	6,900	7,800	-100	-1,000
Local Government	5,500	5,400	5,100	100	400

SANTA FE MSA (SANTA FE & LOS ALAMOS COUNTIES) 1/	PRELIM JAN 1988	REVISED DEC 1987	REVISED JAN 1987	JAN CHANGE FROM DEC 1987	JAN CHANGE FROM JAN 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 2/	53,750	54,750	51,900	-1,000	1,850
MINING	50	50	100	0	-50
CONSTRUCTION	2,300	2,500	2,300	-200	0
MANUFACTURING	1,700	1,700	1,550	0	150
Durable Goods	1,100	1,100	950	0	150
Nondurable Goods	600	600	600	0	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,200	1,200	1,150	0	50
Transportation	450	450	450	0	0
Comm, Elec, Gas & Sanitary Svs	750	750	700	0	50
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	10,600	11,000	10,050	-400	550
WHOLESALE TRADE	800	800	800	0	0
RETAIL TRADE	9,800	10,200	9,250	-400	550
General Merchandise Stores	1,100	1,150	1,000	-50	100
Food Stores	1,200	1,300	1,300	-100	-100
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	800	850	850	-50	-50
Eating & Drinking Places	4,100	4,300	3,700	-200	400
Other Retail Trade	2,600	2,600	2,400	0	200
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	0
SERVICES	14,100	14,300	13,250	-200	850
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	1,600	1,700	1,600	-100	0
Business Services	3,200	3,300	3,300	-100	-100
Health Services	3,300	3,300	3,100	0	200
Social Services	600	600	550	0	50
Other Services	5,400	5,400	4,700	0	700
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	21,800	22,000	21,500	-200	300
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	20,300	20,500	20,000	-200	300
State Government 3/	16,400	16,400	16,300	0	100
Local Government	3,900	4,100	3,700	-200	200

1/ In accordance with the CES Manual, those published cells with less than 2,000 employees are rounded to nearest 50. Those published cells with more than 2,000 employees are rounded to 100.
2/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.
3/ Includes employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS

Hours and Earnings of Production, Construction and Nonsupervisory Employees
(Prepared in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
NEW MEXICO	JAN 1988	DEC 1987	JAN 1987	JAN 1988	DEC 1987	JAN 1987	JAN 1988	DEC 1987	JAN 1987
MINING	$506.97	$510.84	$465.90	44.2	44.0	38.6	11.47	11.61	12.07
CONSTRUCTION	$422.81	$430.85	$386.63	39.7	39.6	34.8	10.65	10.88	11.11
MANUFACTURING	$346.90	$352.54	$366.02	41.2	39.7	40.4	8.42	8.88	9.06
Durable Goods	$365.50	$369.24	$374.10	43.0	40.8	41.2	8.50	9.05	9.08
Nondurable Goods	$306.53	$309.59	$349.20	37.2	36.9	38.8	8.24	8.39	9.00
COMMUNICATION & UTILITIES	$583.95	$575.88	$521.05	41.8	41.7	42.5	13.97	13.81	12.26
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	$228.90	$221.81	$215.76	32.7	32.1	32.3	7.00	6.91	6.68
Wholesale Trade	$408.62	$406.63	$359.96	40.1	40.3	40.4	10.19	10.09	8.91
Retail Trade	$188.40	$186.66	$190.04	31.4	30.5	30.9	6.00	6.12	6.15
BANKING	$232.94	$229.13	$228.86	38.0	37.5	38.4	6.13	6.11	5.96
ALBUQUERQUE MSA	JAN 1988	DEC 1987	JAN 1987	JAN 1988	DEC 1987	JAN 1987	JAN 1988	DEC 1987	JAN 1987
MANUFACTURING	$385.95	$392.12	$343.38	41.5	42.3	38.8	9.30	9.27	8.85
Durable Goods	$410.43	$417.41	$355.94	42.4	43.3	39.2	9.68	9.64	9.08
Nondurable Goods	$313.53	$317.96	$302.50	38.9	39.4	37.3	8.06	8.07	8.11

NOTE: Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded. The average earnings are "gross" reflecting not only changes in basic hourly and incentive wage rates but also such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differentials. The work week information relates to the average hours for which pay was received, and is different from standard or scheduled hours due to absenteeism, labor turnover, part time work, overtime work etc.

AREA ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Statewide: The fiscal 1989 federal budget proposed by President Reagan contains approximately $200 million in new construction for New Mexico. The largest state-related request is $43 million for construction and upgrading of roads leading to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad. Four projects, totaling $69.9 million, are proposed for Los Alamos National Laboratory, and one project, worth $3.2 million, is requested for Sandia National Laboratories. In addition, there is $29.3 million in the budget for military construction at five New Mexico military installations; however, this is approximately 20 percent below last year's military construction expenditures, according to government officials.

Albuquerque Area: A group of Albuquerque investors plan to build a high-tech research park on 40 acres just south of Eubank and Gibson SE. The group, called Opportunity Research Park Partnership, expects the facility will attract out-of-state firms, along with current Albuquerque firms that contract with Sandia Labs. Ground breaking for the development is planned for March of this year. The city of Rio Rancho has been granted $500,000 by the federal Community Development Block Grant program. The grant funds will be loaned to the Lukens Corp. to buy equipment for a medical sutures manufacturing plant the firm is locating in Rio Rancho. The new plant is expected to employ about 200 persons by the end of this year and could expand to more than 500 by 1990. Madden/Center City Associates plans to build a $100 million hotel-office development complex in downtown Albuquerque. The Sandia Foundation will lease 25 acres directly west of I-25 between Lomas Boulevard and Mountain Road for the complex; the project is expected to take 10 years to be completely developed. The Jaynes Corp. was awarded a $21.7 million contract to construct the Albuquerque International Airport's multi-level parking garage. The four-level garage will sit on 28.4 acres and will accommodate 3,500 vehicles. The garage is part of the airport's $120 million renovation project which is scheduled for completion in the fall of 1989. The Lovelace Medical Center maintenance department, which consisted of 30 employees, has been eliminated. Lovelace has entered into an agreement with GEC Corp. to provide on-site construction and maintenance services. Budget cuts are forcing Kirtland Air Force Base officials to offer nearly 1,000 enlisted men and women an early release, and in addition they plan to terminate at least 20 civilian employees.

The budget cuts are being made from Military Airlift Command (MAC) units; so far, 125 enlistees have accepted the early-out offer. MAC also is considering a voluntary early-retirement option for civilians. The University of New Mexico has been awarded a $32 million weapons research and development contract by the Air Force Weapons Laboratory. The contract was originally established in 1961; the current version covers a 3-year period from April 1, 1988 to June 30, 1991.

Alamogordo Area: Plans are underway to open a Wal-Mart discount department store in Alamogordo. The 65,900-square-foot store will be located in a new shopping center on U.S. 70 and 54, with an expected opening date of late 1988. Construction should begin on the new store early this summer. Arvin/Calspan Advanced Technology Center recently had its White Sands weapons testing contract extended for the next five years. The new contract, worth $3.4 million, means the firm will continue to perform susceptibility and vulnerability analysis of guided weapons at the missile range. Officials for the U.S. Army Strategic Defense Command indicate that recent budget cutbacks on the $3 billion Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) experimental laser project could cause employment reductions at White Sands Missile Range. The Strategic Defense Organization expected $320 million in Fiscal Year 1988, but received about $130 million for the laser project. Ongoing construction at the Orogrande site will continue, according to officials, but no new construction will be initiated this year. Fluor Constructors of Irvine, CA was awarded the contract for building roads, utilities, and structures to house the SDI project.

Carlsbad / Artesia Area: Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) officials have announced that all 30 of the containers used to transport nuclear waste to the facility will be constructed in Carlsbad. Nuclear Packaging Inc. of Washington state is the contractor selected to build the containers, called TRUPACT, and the firm is in a joint venture with Gregory Enterprises Inc. of Carlsbad to design, develop and test the containers. The contract for the 30 containers is valued at more than $5 million, according to WIPP officials. Delivery of the first containers is scheduled for October, and waste shipments to WIPP are scheduled to begin by this December.

Clovis / Portales Area: The Excel meat packing plant in Friona, TX, located approximately 30 miles northeast of Clovis, is closing for an "indefinite" period beginning February 29. The meat plant is a major employer in the area, employing approximately 1,200 workers. Many of the plant's workers live in New Mexico. The Clovis City Commission recently completed negotiations with Associated Milk Producers, Inc. (AMPI) on the lease of the idle Clovis Milk Plant. AMPI is expected to spend approximately $8 million renovating the plant for production of powdered milk, butter, and buttermilk products. The plant is expected to open by year's end, and projected production figures for the new plant for the next five years begin at 1.12 million pounds of milk in 1988 and total to 1.7 million pounds per year by 1992.

Hobbs / Lovington Area: Rotary oil drilling activity in the Permian Basin and in the nation has dropped in the first two months of 1988, according to rig counts tabulated by Hughes Tool Co. Activity in the Basin was reported at about 140 working rigs at the end of February, down about 15 from the end of 1987. Nationally, approximately 980 drilling rigs were working during the same period, which is a reduction of about 50 from December 1987.

Las Cruces Area: Work has started on a $250,000 cancer radiation therapy center in Las Cruces which will be operated by Gamma Management of Lancaster, CA. Statewide General Contractors of Las Cruces will build the facility.

Roswell Area: Air Draulics Company, a subsidiary of Sun Distributing Inc. of Philadelphia, has opened an office-warehouse at the Roswell Industrial Air Center (RIAC) to supply equipment to Transportation Manufacturing Corporation (TMC). Another TMC spin-off company, Creative Pultrusions, is operating a small manufacturing operation at RIAC producing fiberglass panels for the bus manufacturer.

Silver City / Lordsburg Area: The recently opened copper mine in Pinos Altos, which is

operated jointly by Cyprus Metals Corporation and St. Cloud Mining Company, is now employing about 30 workers. Ore from the mine is being shipped to St. Cloud's mill near Winston in Sierra County for processing, and about 40 workers have been hired at the mill. Also in Pinos Altos, ribbon cutting ceremonies were held in late January for the new water line project. The project was funded by a $656,000 grant from the Economic Development Administration. Phelps Dodge management recently disclosed that, at the current mining rate, the ore body at its Tyrone branch will only last until sometime in the early 1990s. The company's other Grant County copper mine, at Santa Rita, has reserves adequate for mining until about 2008. According to Phelps Dodge officials, copper mining has been underway at the Santa Rita property since as early as 1801, when it was the principal source of copper for the Mexican mint. A Nevada corporation, Casco de Oro, Inc., has submitted a plan of operations to the Gila National Forest to operate a placer gold mine in the Burro Mountains, northeast of Lordsburg. According to company officials, the mine could employ up to 90 persons for the three to four years it would take to exhaust the 700,000 ton ore body. A new trailer manufacturing operation has started up in Lordsburg. Sunblest Industries, Inc. is currently employing six workers building utility trailers.

Socorro / T or C Area: Honeywell, Inc. has signed an agreement with New Mexico Tech to expand its facilities in the university's Industrial/Research Park. Honeywell currently employs four persons assembling ammunition for testing by Tech's Terminal Effects Research and Analysis group. Once construction on the expansion is completed, Honeywell is expected to increase its employment to about ten. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held recently for a $1.3 million library and civic center complex in Truth or Consequences.

Taos Area: The Federal Aviation Administration's budget for fiscal year 1988 has allocated $1.2 million for a proposed expansion of the Taos Airport. The $1.2 million will likely be used for land acquisition and possibly some engineering; the expansion will cost $9 million when complete. Groundbreaking on a new $2 million downtown convention center is scheduled for this spring.

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U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Beginning with the release of January 1988 data, the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics has shifted the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to a new reference base year, 1982-84 = 100. Historical data for the CPI series on the new base are available from the U.S. Department of Labor by writing to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 525 Griffin St., Room 221, Dallas, TX 75202, or by calling (214) 767-6970.

				Percent Change	
	Jan. 1988	Dec. 1987	Jan. 1987	Dec.'87-Jan.'88	Jan.'87-Jan.'88
CPI-U	115.7	115.4	111.3	+0.3%	+4.0%
CPI-W	114.5	114.2	110.0	+0.3%	+4.1%

Index Base Year 1982-84 = 100

CPI-U - All Urban Consumers
CPI-W - Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

NEW MEXICO AND ALBUQUERQUE MSA
1987 CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES
BY MONTH AND ANNUAL AVERAGE

NEW MEXICO

MONTH	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
JANUARY	679,595	610,540	69,055	10.2%
FEBRUARY	678,670	611,443	67,227	9.9%
MARCH	680,998	613,648	67,350	9.9%
APRIL	681,193	617,305	63,888	9.4%
MAY	685,210	623,053	62,157	9.1%
JUNE	689,430	624,609	64,821	9.4%
JULY	685,401	626,158	59,243	8.6%
AUGUST	687,726	629,093	58,633	8.5%
SEPTEMBER	686,327	631,884	54,443	7.9%
OCTOBER	696,548	642,259	54,289	7.8%
NOVEMBER	687,377	631,091	56,286	8.2%
DECEMBER	681,526	626,916	54,610	8.0%
ANNUAL AVERAGE	685,000	624,000	61,000	8.9%

ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/

MONTH	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
JANUARY	258,811	240,949	17,862	6.9%
FEBRUARY	259,721	243,015	16,706	6.4%
MARCH	262,014	244,906	17,108	6.5%
APRIL	261,850	244,823	17,027	6.5%
MAY	260,903	244,541	16,362	6.3%
JUNE	261,652	243,644	18,008	6.9%
JULY	259,355	242,840	16,515	6.4%
AUGUST	257,690	240,946	16,744	6.5%
SEPTEMBER	262,363	246,027	16,336	6.2%
OCTOBER	264,059	247,843	16,216	6.1%
NOVEMBER	263,216	246,228	16,988	6.5%
DECEMBER	260,407	244,611	15,796	6.1%
ANNUAL AVERAGE	261,004	244,198	16,806	6.4%

1/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Bernalillo County

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES BY AREA
1987 ANNUAL AVERAGES

AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
STATEWIDE	685,000	624,000	61,000	8.9%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 1/	261,004	244,198	16,806	6.4%
LAS CRUCES MSA 2/	55,377	51,283	4,094	7.4%
SANTA FE MSA 3/	65,356	61,582	3,774	5.8%
Catron	1,272	1,103	169	13.3%
Chaves	22,867	20,880	1,987	8.7%
Cibola	9,258	7,947	1,311	14.2%
Colfax	7,118	6,251	867	12.2%
Curry	17,182	15,781	1,401	8.2%
De Baca	979	875	104	10.6%
Eddy	20,996	18,339	2,657	12.7%
Grant	10,339	9,306	1,033	10.0%
Guadalupe	1,715	1,420	295	17.2%
Harding	464	405	59	12.7%
Hidalgo	2,580	2,418	162	6.3%
Lea	23,052	20,543	2,509	10.9%
Lincoln	6,832	6,307	525	7.7%
Luna	5,932	5,055	877	14.8%
McKinley	17,631	15,352	2,279	12.9%
Mora	1,380	933	447	32.4%
Otero	18,021	16,559	1,462	8.1%
Quay	4,709	4,293	416	8.8%
Rio Arriba	14,142	11,389	2,753	19.5%
Roosevelt	7,570	7,130	440	5.8%
Sandoval	24,061	22,039	2,022	8.4%
San Juan	34,356	28,916	5,440	15.8%
San Miguel	10,126	8,778	1,348	13.3%
Sierra	2,646	2,433	213	8.0%
Socorro	5,985	5,400	585	9.8%
Taos	10,781	7,952	2,829	26.2%
Torrance	3,557	3,163	394	11.1%
Union	2,146	1,980	166	7.7%
Valencia	15,568	13,989	1,579	10.1%

1/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Bernalillo County

2/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Dona Ana County

3/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Santa Fe and Los Alamos Counties

NEW MEXICO LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES 1/

	PRELIMINARY JANUARY 1988				REVISED DECEMBER 1987				REVISED JANUARY 1987			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
STATEWIDE	675,995	616,342	59,653	8.8%	681,526	626,916	54,610	8.0%	679,595	610,540	69,055	10.2%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 2/	256,674	240,405	16,269	6.3%	260,407	244,611	15,796	6.1%	258,811	240,949	17,862	6.9%
LAS CRUCES MSA 3/	54,286	50,274	4,012	7.4%	55,387	51,766	3,621	6.5%	53,530	49,544	3,986	7.4%
SANTA FE MSA 4/	64,860	60,929	3,931	6.1%	65,023	61,489	3,534	5.4%	62,764	58,722	4,042	6.4%
Catron	1,161	930	231	19.9%	1,144	1,008	136	11.9%	1,245	1,017	228	18.3%
Chaves	22,890	21,110	1,780	7.8%	22,808	21,300	1,508	6.6%	22,771	20,241	2,530	11.1%
Cibola	9,170	7,917	1,253	13.7%	9,158	8,043	1,115	12.2%	9,342	7,725	1,617	17.3%
Colfax	7,247	6,431	816	11.3%	7,328	6,620	708	9.7%	7,017	5,954	1,063	15.1%
Curry	16,542	14,947	1,595	9.6%	16,983	15,603	1,380	8.1%	17,468	15,877	1,591	9.1%
De Baca	1,019	805	214	21.0%	926	823	103	11.1%	995	857	138	13.9%
Eddy	19,646	17,545	2,101	10.7%	20,250	18,121	2,129	10.5%	22,073	18,494	3,579	16.2%
Grant	10,520	9,498	1,022	9.7%	10,494	9,570	924	8.8%	10,374	9,095	1,279	12.3%
Guadalupe	1,691	1,335	356	21.1%	1,628	1,336	292	17.9%	1,731	1,357	374	21.6%
Harding	445	370	75	16.9%	441	385	56	12.7%	442	382	60	13.6%
Hidalgo	2,514	2,333	181	7.2%	2,546	2,383	163	6.4%	2,449	2,285	164	6.7%
Lea	22,485	20,624	1,861	8.3%	22,809	21,030	1,779	7.8%	23,476	20,379	3,097	13.2%
Lincoln	6,027	5,454	573	9.5%	6,433	5,900	533	8.3%	6,403	5,698	705	11.0%
Luna	5,819	4,909	910	15.6%	5,890	5,080	810	13.8%	6,002	4,987	1,015	16.9%
McKinley	18,134	15,455	2,679	14.8%	17,548	15,289	2,259	12.9%	17,835	15,211	2,624	14.7%
Mora	1,395	916	479	34.3%	1,370	930	440	32.1%	1,439	905	534	37.1%
Otero	18,448	16,795	1,653	9.0%	18,231	16,744	1,487	8.2%	17,967	16,414	1,553	8.6%
Quay	4,528	4,093	435	9.6%	4,643	4,221	422	9.1%	4,702	4,196	506	10.8%
Rio Arriba	14,047	11,241	2,806	20.0%	13,636	11,219	2,417	17.7%	14,108	10,907	3,201	22.7%
Roosevelt	7,427	6,942	485	6.5%	7,797	7,390	407	5.2%	7,937	7,455	482	6.1%
Sandoval	24,894	22,714	2,180	8.8%	24,421	22,471	1,950	8.0%	23,234	20,902	2,332	10.0%
San Juan	34,116	29,286	4,830	14.2%	33,697	29,585	4,112	12.2%	35,258	28,710	6,548	18.6%
San Miguel	9,777	8,349	1,428	14.6%	9,898	8,653	1,245	12.6%	9,676	8,131	1,545	16.0%
Sierra	2,528	2,368	160	6.3%	2,600	2,405	195	7.5%	2,721	2,439	282	10.4%
Socorro	6,074	5,412	662	10.9%	6,217	5,596	621	10.0%	5,687	5,072	615	10.8%
Taos	10,664	8,178	2,486	23.3%	10,869	8,384	2,485	22.9%	11,095	8,026	3,069	27.7%
Torrance	3,480	3,009	471	13.5%	3,560	3,165	395	11.1%	3,541	3,055	486	13.7%
Union	2,005	1,841	164	8.2%	2,111	1,953	158	7.5%	2,168	1,970	198	9.1%
Valencia	15,482	13,927	1,555	10.0%	15,273	13,843	1,430	9.4%	15,334	13,584	1,750	11.4%

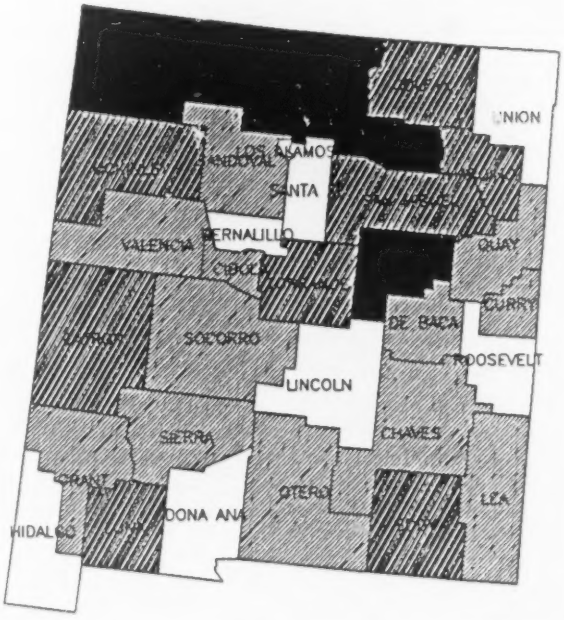
1/ All estimates are made in strict accordance with methodology provided by the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

2/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Bernalillo County

3/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Dona Ana County

4/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Santa Fe and Los Alamos Counties

New Mexico
Unemployment Rates by Area
1987 Annual Average



Legend

- 5.8 to 8
- 8 to 11
- 11 to 15
- 15 to 33.4

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